

I am writing to protest the FCC proposal 04-233. I enjoy my right to free speech as United States citizen. Proposal 04-233 would place radio stations that have religious music or content at risk for discrimination. This proposal is, for example, like appointing a committee for each community to decide what types of people should be allowed to visit the local park. Yes, the committee may benefit the community by (for example) restricting access to the park for sex offenders. However, let's say you implemented this policy in an area that consists of mostly white people. This policy provides the majority the opportunity to shut out minorities. The mostly white community has the power to discriminate against people of different colors. The committee would not have to even mention anything about race to discriminate against different races (that would be too obvious). Perhaps the mostly white committee made a rule preventing kids from certain parts of the city from accessing the park. And it just so happen that the certain part of the city was predominantly African American.

My point is, why CREATE a situation in which discrimination and violation of our right to free speech will occur. I agree that profanity, racism, ect, should be regulated, however diversity and individualism, are part of what it means to be an American. We are all different, so why would you try to make some people agree on what the community should listen to. The poor will probably not have an opportunity to voice their input on what is played over the air due to the fact that they may have an intensive work schedule, which does not allow them time to join the broadcasting committee. And what about the student, they will be much too busy studying and going to class to join a committee. But most importantly of all, people shouldn't be forced to join a broadcasting committee in their local community (or do anything else) in order to enjoy their right to free speech in the form of listening to their favorite radio station. This is the United States, there should be no other stipulations, or requirements for us to enjoy our rights as Americans. I don't try to regulate the music playing on stations that I don't like. I am not a country fan, but I fully acknowledge that country stations have just as much right to play to their listeners as non-country stations. America doesn't need a committee to decide who is free to broadcast over the radio and who isn't free.

In closing, I strongly urge you NOT to let proposal 04-233 pass.

Thank you for your time,
Stephen Senne